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March 21, 2019

SENT BY EMAIL

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings
Chair
Committee on Oversight and Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cummings:

Various media have sent me a copy of the March 21, 2019 letter you sent to White House Counsel Pat Cipollone. While your letter is correct about our meetings and correspondence, it is not completely accurate about what was said. There are a number of things to address, but I wanted to respond to the ones about which there is already misreporting.

When you or staff asked about Mr. Kushner's use of any communications app, I specifically said I did not know that was a topic to be discussed at our meeting, and that the best place to ask your questions was to the White House. I never said his communications through any app was with foreign "leaders" or "officials." I said he has used those communications with "some people" and I did not specify who they were. For example, he has numerous friends and contacts abroad. I also specifically stated that the conversation we were having was based on what was reported "from the press" and I did know any details because that subject "was beyond the scope of what I came down here to discuss. . . ." I specifically said that "if there was a question about Jared's use of WhatsApp, that is a question for White House Counsel, not me." I did convey that Mr. Kushner follows the protocols (including the handling of classified information) as he has been instructed to do.

In addition, I did not say that Ms. Trump "continues to receive emails relating to official business on her personal account and that she does not forward emails received through her personal account unless she responds to the email . . ." We were talking about email use in the period before September 2017. Then, I was asked: "So you said before that she just gets people sending her emails about official business and then she replies. What does she do now when this happens?" I replied: "Now she always forwards official business to her White House account."

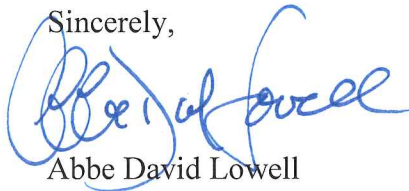
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As there is much interest in your letter (and it appears to have been sent through the media), I wanted to respond as quickly as possible from the very detailed notes taken at the meeting.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Abbe David Lowell", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Abbe David Lowell

cc: The Honorable Jim Jordan, Ranking Member